A LETTER TO THE PROPRIETORS OF THE EAST INDIA STOCK.

ERRATA.

Page 14. line ult. *for* Colonel, *read* Council.

15. line 4. *for* the Company's forces, *read* the King's and Company's forces.

15. line 11. *for* Colonel, *read* Council.

29. line 23. *for* Plaſſis, *read* Plaſſey.

A

LETTER

TO THE

PROPRIETORS

OF THE

EAST INDIA STOCK,

FROM

LORD CLIVE.

LONDON:

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ADDRESS

TO THE

PROPRIETORS

OF THE

EAST INDIA STOCK.

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THE laſt Election of the India Directors drew many unjuſt attacks on my character; and it is probable, I may be cenſured by ſome, for having ſuffered ſuch reports as were ſpread againſt me during the conteſt to have remained ſo long unanſwered; but knowing, that even the authors of them could not themſelves believe them; and conſcious to myſelf, that every part of my conduct, in the great ſhare I had in the management of the Company's affairs, would bear the moſt rigid ſcrutiny, and the more known be the more approved; I held

them in too much contempt to merit any anſwer. But as I find the unjuſt attack on my character has been followed by an attack on my fortune, and inſinuations thrown out to juſtify theſe proceedings, very injurious to my honour, I reluctantly ſubmit to vindicate myſelf, and muſt rely upon the candour of the Proprietors, not to impute it to oſtentatious vanity, if in ſpeaking of myſelf I do aver, that I founded all my actions in their ſervice on honourable motives.

To ſtate this clearly, I am obliged to go back to that period when commerce was the Company's ſole object. The firſt principle on which the Company's ſettlements were eſtabliſhed, was intirely commercial. The Mogul government had, during the long and wiſe adminiſtration of Aurengzebe, taken ſuch deep root, that the many nations which formed the empire of Indoſtan were ſubjugated to the Mogul in various forms; ſome of them tributary and hereditary, and others governed by Nabobs, or Viceroys, under the immediate appointment of the Emperors.

Such

Such was the ſtate of the empire when the Engliſh ſettled in India; and, in the reign of Furruckſeer, they obtained phirmonds, or royal grants, for eſtabliſhing themſelves in Bengal, Madraſs, and Surat, with privilege of trading duty-free; and a grant of a certain diſtrict of land to ſettle upon, and liberty to fortify and govern themſelves by their own laws. But as the Engliſh ſaw no violence to be apprehended from a people who had a juſt idea of commerce, and a government at that time well adminiſtred, they built with very little view of defence, and carried on their trade free from oppreſſion.

The governors of the diſtant provinces diſcovering the weakneſs to which the power of the Emperor was reduced by the invaſion of Nadir Shah, were no longer reſtrained by fear; each aſſumed and exerciſed ſovereign authority over his province, and looked on his government as an heritage to his family. Scarce any more of the annual ſums, before paid by them to the Mogul, were ſent to court; and, to maintain themſelves in their ſovereignty, they levied forces far beyond what the ordinary revenues

would maintain : From hence oppreffions became neceffary, and, in their turn, the Europeans were oppreffed, not only in their trade, but large fums extorted from them by violence. Monf. Dupleix, the Governor of Pondicherry, was the firft who took the alarm, and was the firft who difcovered the fuperiority of European difcipline, and from hence was led into the idea of acquiring a territorial fovereignty in India.

It is probable, he at firft extended his views no farther than a diftrict round Pondicherry; but when once engaged in the politics of the country, his fucceffes fo far furpaffed his expectation, and opened fuch a fcene of power to him, that he difdained the narrow limits he might at firft prefcribe to himfelf; and no doubt but they were enlarged, not only to the conqueft of the Carnatic, but to the extirpation of all other European nations, and even to the reduction of the whole Mogul empire, and to make it a dependant ftate on the crown of France.

The Englifh beheld his progrefs with aftonifhment, but were not rouzed to action, till they

they found themfelves on the point of being fwallowed up by the French power. Forced to it, they with reluctance, in 1750, undertook the fupport of Mahomed Ally againft Chunda Saheb, under whofe name the French carried on their ambitious projects.

It is not my intention to enter into a minute detail of that long war, maintained on our fide againft a conftant fuperiority of numbers, at the expence of the lives of many thoufands of brave men, and at the rifque of near a million fterling of the Company's property; I fhall only obferve, that from our fucceffes, the Nabob's fituation was fo different at the end of the year 1753, from what it was in 1750, at which time the fingle city of Trichinopoly was the only part of his dominions that remained unconquered by the French, that in 1753 he had recovered, and was mafter of, almoft the whole Carnatic; and at that time the French refources feemed nearly exhaufted.

The French Company, elated at the fuccefs which attended Monf. Dupleix in the commencement of the war, at firft faintly approved

his meaſures; but the oppoſition of the other European powers, the unforeſeen events of war, and the deviating ſo widely from their natural object of commerce, rendering the event very uncertain, there was nothing could fix their faith in the rectitude of thoſe meaſures, but ſucceſſes that might attend them, and a happy period to the war, which Monſ. Dupleix promiſed them in every letter. But, inſtead of theſe ſucceſſes, they ſaw the countries, of which they expected the revenues would be their reward, in the hands of their enemies, and their ſtock exhauſting in the ſupport of an uncertain war, which ruined their trade, and the manufactories of the country, from which they had before reaped advantages ſuitable to their eſtabliſhment.

The war appeared in the ſame light to the Engliſh Company, and therefore both agreed on a neutrality for the Carnatic, till means ſhould be found to put an end to that and all future wars by negociations at home. But as it regarded the Carnatic only, it did not check the progreſs of the French arms in the Decan, the Soubah of which had ceded to them Maſſu-

lipatan,

lipatan, and four provinces, which yielded them a revenue of 400,000 *l.* ſterling a year. Nor did there appear any check to their progreſs in that country: the French gave law, by their influence over the Soubah, to a country as extenſive and populous as France; and by a prudent management of what they had ſo acquired, or by increaſe of dominion, it was in their power even then to have laid a foundation on which M. Dupleix's great ideas of conqueſt might have been realized. And altho' the French Company themſelves ſhould have choſen to adhere to their commercial intereſts, Dupleix's projects ſuited too well with that ſpirit of conqueſt which prevails in the French court, to be neglected; and upon the breaking out of the war it is reaſonable to conclude, from the forces ſent out under General Lally, that they adopted them in their utmoſt extent. Our ſettlements were but a ſecondary object; their forces were ſo formidable, that they, with great probability, imagined them a trifling obſtacle, (which ſurmounted) Cape Comerin and the Ganges might have been the boundaries of their dominions. The ſpirited efforts of Mr. Pocock

 could

could not prevent their landing their army: St. Davids fell; no obſtacle but Fort St. George remained to the accompliſhment of their farther conqueſts. Here they met with a reſiſtance ſuitable to the importance of the object; and I am perſuaded, that Meſſrs. Pigott, Laurence, Draper, and many other gentlemen of the garriſon would have been buried under its ruins, ſooner than have ſurrendered the place.

The ſiege was raiſed, their army reduced, and misfortunes preſſed them on every ſide.

Prior to the ſiege of Madraſs, they had loſt all their ſettlements in Bengal: four hundred Europeans, ſent under Col. Ford into the Decan, by the great ſucceſs of that gallant officer, put a period to their expectations in that country. The reduction of Maſulipatan, the four northern provinces, and the making all the French army there priſoners, greatly contributed to our ſucceſs at Fort St. George, as it diverted great part of the French forces, who otherwiſe would have been called to the ſiege of Madraſs, and deprived them of ſupplies of money and proviſions. And finally, as Col. Ford's

Ford's expedition obliged the French to fend from the coaft 500 men for the relief of Mafulipatan, of whom very few returned to Pondicherry, the French were reduced to act upon the defenfive only, and were greatly diftreffed for money and provifions, which Fort St. George was plentifully fupplied with from Bengal. Under thefe circumftances the fall of Pondicherry clofed the fcene of all their glory, and left them not a foot of land in India.

Thus have I traced, from its commencement, the progrefs and iffue of a war, begun on principles of French ambition, but happily terminated by the greateft efforts of valour and good conduct on the part of the Englifh. I flatter myfelf, that every Proprietor muft receive infinite pleafure in the reflection, that they will foon reap the benefit of thefe great and glorious fucceffes, now fecured to them by the XIth article of the definitive treaty. Although there are fome geographical errors, fuch as making the Soubah of Bengal's dominions extend near 200 miles more than they do, to Yanam, and making that place the northern inftead of the fouthern part of the coaft

of

of Orixa: the acknowledging Salabad Jing lawful Soubah of the Decan, and Mahomed Ally Cawn lawful Nabob of the Carnatic, had better have been omitted for ſeveral reaſons, and may be productive of diſputes hereafter between the two Companies: yet, upon the whole, the article is very advantageous to the Eaſt India Company.

As my oppoſition originally aroſe from the defects in the Preliminary Articles, (in which the intereſt of the Eaſt India Company appeared to me to be much expoſed) it affords me a very particular pleaſure to think that I have been any ways inſtrumental to the amendment of that article relative to the Company. Of the part I acted in it, Mr. Wood himſelf bore teſtimony in the general court; and tho' it had but little weight at that time, yet I perſuade myſelf, that when the voice of clamour ceaſes, *that*, like every other part of my conduct towards the company, will be found to have ſprung from the warmeſt zeal for their honour and intereſt.

As to myſelf, I can with truth affirm, that the principal motive that induced me to offer myſelf

myſelf a candidate for the India Direction, was the intereſt of the Eaſt India Company; and my reaſons for eſpouſing the cauſe of Mr. Rous, aroſe from a conviction of his integrity. Contrary to my expectation, my opponents, the very men who had ſo often concurred in giving me the moſt public teſtimonies of their ſenſe of my ſervices, were men that oppoſed my coming into the Direction. Better verſed in ſuch buſineſs than myſelf, they prevailed in this diſpute, and every ſpecies of calumny was made uſe of that malice could invent; and the firſt ſtep my opponents took, after the election, was to order their ſervants abroad to ſtop the rents of my eſtate in the Eaſt Indies, which they themſelves had regularly paid me for ſeveral years, without objection. Their motives for taking ſuch a ſtep at ſuch a time are too obvious to be inſiſted upon.

Anonymous letters in the public papers were the channel my enemies choſe for thoſe diſhonourable reflections, which not one amongſt them would have dared to have ſet their names to.

I have

I have collected, from the heap of abſurdities publiſhed on that occaſion in the Gazetteer of the 12th of April, 1763, the following articles.

1ſt. That I had refuſed to anſwer certain inquiries reſpecting the diſtribution of the Nabob's treaſure.

2dly. That I had done injuſtice to the relations of the unhappy ſufferers in the Black Hole, by with-holding from them the ſums ſtipulated by treaty for their indemnification.

3dly. That having depoſed the Nabob, I entered the treaſury, and diſtributed the wealth according to the pleaſure of thoſe intruſted with the Company's authority, leaving the Nabob deſtitute, and neceſſitated to borrow money of the Company for his neceſſary expences; by all which the Company may hereafter become reſponſible to the Mogul.

4thly. That no ſervant of the Company ſhall remit money home but by their caſh, which order I broke through, by remitting large ſums by the Dutch caſh.

5thly. That I was guilty of a breach of truſt, by ſupplying a Portugueſe ſhip, bound from

from Bengal to Lifbon, with goods and money, to the great detriment of the Company.

6thly. That I have no right to an annual revenue of 27,000*l.* a year, given me by the Nabob, which muft be fupported and maintained at the Company's expence.

The firft of thefe articles does not explain what the inquiries were I had refufed to anfwer; I therefore do not clearly underftand what the tendency of fuch inquiries were. If they had any relation to the monies received from the Nabob by the Company, the treaties entered into with the Nabob by the Admirals Watfon and Pocock, the Prefident of Fort William and myfelf, in confequence of which the Company received near a million and an half fterling, will account for that proportion to which the Company can lay any claim. This however does not feem to be the matter alluded to, but fomething refpecting myfelf, or the fortune I acquired in the Company's fervice. It is well known, that I was not in England at the time the general court was held relating to the diftribution of the Nabob's

treaſure, and could not poſſibly give any anſwer to inquiries on that ſubject; but if there was any foundation for ſuch inquiries, the Directors were wanting in their duty to the Company, in not making them after my return: and it will appear, that the Directors, under their own hands, approved of the donations beſtowed by the Nabob on individuals for their ſervices. But however, as the neglect of the Directors, if that was the caſe, in not calling me to account, can by no means ſanctify my actions, it is neceſſary that I give the beſt ſatisfaction I am able relative to this matter.

I was appointed, by the gentlemen of Fort St. George, commander in chief of the troops ſent for the recovery of the Company's ſettlements in Bengal, on board the fleet commanded by Admiral Watſon. On our arrival in the Ganges, we found the unhappy remains of a once flouriſhing colony on board a few merchants ſhips in that river. We landed, drove the enemy from Fort William, and put the Company's Governor and Colonel in poſſeſſion.

The Nabob then came down with an army of ſixty or ſeventy thouſand men, and a heavy train of artillery, fluſhed by his late ſucceſſes againſt the Engliſh. The Company's forces, conſiſting of a battalion of 450 men, a battalion of Seapoys, and a body of ſailors from the ſquadron, attacked the Nabob in his camp, and defeated him. We then made a treaty with him, by which he engaged to reſtore all the effects he had taken. In conſequence of which, the Governor and Colonel recovered in goods and money to a large amount. *

War being declared againſt France, we took Chandernagore; and having convincing proofs, that the Nabob's firm intention was to extirpate the Engliſh, as ſoon as the troops and ſquadron left the river, we entered into an alliance with Meer Jaffier Ally Cawn, a general officer in the Nabob's ſervice, and near relation to the Nabob; and accordingly a treaty † was concluded between us, the chief

* A copy of this treaty may be ſeen in the Appendix, No. 1.

† A copy of which may be ſeen in the Appendix, No. 2.

chief object of which was, on the part of our ally, a full ſatisfaction to the Company and all the inhabitants, for the loſſes they had ſuſtained by the capture of Fort William, and other factories which the Nabob had plundered, with grants of lands and privileges; and, on the Company's part, to place and ſupport him in the government of the three provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixa.

Every thing being agreed on between Meer Jaffier and the ſecret committee, we marched the army to meet the Nabob, whom we intirely defeated. His death followed ſoon after, and Meer Jaffier was, in a few days, in poſſeſſion of the government, and of a revenue of three millions and an half ſterling per annum.

The one half of the ſecret committee being then preſent at the capital, and a report made by the Nabob's miniſters of the ſtate of the treaſury, it was ſettled, that half the ſum ſtipulated by treaty ſhould be paid in three months, and the other half in three years, all conditionally, that we ſupported him in the government.

The Nabob then, agreeable to the known and uſual cuſtom of eaſtern princes, made preſents, both to thoſe of his own court, and to ſuch of the Engliſh, who by their rank and abilities had been inſtrumental in the happy ſucceſs of ſo hazardous an enterprize, ſuitable to the rank and dignity of a great Prince. I was one amongſt the many who benefited by his favour: I never ſought to conceal it, but declared publicly, in my letters to the ſecret committee of the India Directors, that the Nabob's generoſity had made my fortune eaſy, and that the Company's welfare was now my only motive for ſtaying in India. What injuſtice was this to the Company? They could expect no more than what was ſtipulated in the treaty. Or what injunction was I under to refuſe a preſent from him who had the power to make me one, as the reward of honourable ſervices? I know of none. I had ſurely myſelf a particular claim, by having devoted myſelf to the Company's military ſervice, and neglected all commercial advantages. What reaſon then can be given, or what pretence could the company have to expect, that I,

after having risqued my life so often in their service, should deny myself the only honourable opportunity that ever offered of acquiring a fortune, without prejudice to them, who, it is evident, would not have had more for my having had less. When the Company had acquired a million and an half sterling, and a revenue of near 100,000 *l.* per annum, from the success of their forces under my command; when ample restoration had been made to those whose fortunes suffered by the calamity of Calcutta; and when individuals had, in consequence of that success, acquired large estates; what would the world have said, had I come home, and rested upon the generosity of the present Court of Directors?

It is well known to every gentleman in Bengal, that the honour of my country, and the interest of the Company were the principles that governed all my actions; and that had I only taken the advantageous opportunities that presented themselves, by my being commander in chief, and at the head of a victorious army, and what by the custom of that country I was intitled to, the Jaghire itself, great as it

is,

is, would have been an object fcarce worth my confideration.

The city of Maxadavad is as extenfive, populous, and rich as the city of London; with this difference, that there are individuals in the firft poffeffing infinitely greater property than any in the laft city. Thefe, as well as every other man of property, made me the greateft offers, (which neverthelefs are ufual upon fuch occafions, and what they expected would have been required) and had I accepted thefe offers, I might have been in poffeffion of millions, which the prefent Court of Directors could not have difpoffeffed me of. But preferring the reputation of the Englifh nation, the intereft of the Nabob, and the advantage of the Company, to all pecuniary confiderations, I refufed all offers that were made me, not only then, but to the laft hour of my continuance in the Company's fervice in Bengal, and do challenge friend or enemy to bring one fingle inftance of my being influenced by interefted motives to the Company's difadvantage, or to do any act that could reflect difhonour to my country or the Company, in any

one action of my adminiftration, either as Governor or commanding officer.

I little expected ever to have had my conduct impeached, or to have received fuch treatment from the Court of Directors, efpecially after the many public and honourable teftimonies of approbation I had received in the orders and letters mentioned in the Appendix, No. 3.

I am not oftentatious, but upon this occafion am forced to deviate from myfelf, and with great reluctance expofe thefe public teftimonies of my conduct, in contraft to the difhonourable motives which have induced my enemies to impeach it.

As to the 2d article, accufing me with injuftice towards the relations of the unhappy fufferers in the Black Hole, whoever will be at the pains to inquire, will learn that 625,000 *l.* was the fum affigned to make good the loffes fuftained by the Europeans; that the money was fent down to the Governor and Council at Calcutta, and by them depofited in the Company's treafury, who gave orders to their treafurer to iffue it out as demanded to the fecretary

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appointed by the 24 commiſſioners, choſen by the inhabitants themſelves to adjuſt their reſpective claims; and that none of it ever paſſed thro' my hands. They will further learn, that the ſum aſſigned did not only ſuffice to pay the principal of ſuch loſſes, but for a dividend of 22 per cent. for intereſt, beſides a ſum ſufficient for another ſuch dividend, which has been detained for the Company's uſe by orders to their ſervants abroad. It is very poſſible, that the heirs of ſome of the unfortunate ſufferers in the Black Hole may not have been able to obtain their right, for want of attornies to apply to the commiſſioners for that right. If there be any ſuch demands, I ſhould imagine they may ſtill have juſtice done them out of the remaining treaty-money, now in poſſeſſion of the Company. But to ſhew in what a light the ſufferers themſelves regarded my conduct, I take the liberty to inſert a paragraph, extracted from a letter ſigned by almoſt all the inhabitants of Calcutta, which will ſhew the Proprietors their ſentiments of my conduct on that ſubject.

 "Honoured

" Honoured Sir,

" The inhabitants of this ſettlement, truly " ſenſible of the benefits they have received " from your generous aſſiſtance, in obtaining " them reſtitution for the heavy loſſes they " ſuſtained in the miſerable cataſtrophe of June " 1756, and for your great care and aſſiduity " in the collecting of that part of the Nabob's " donation ; Do, with the utmoſt gratitude, " return their hearty and ſincere thanks for " thoſe great favours conferred on them, the " remembrance whereof will be for ever in- " delible."

As to the third article, which ſeems to intimate ſome right in the Great Mogul to the treaſures of the late Nabob Sarajah Dowla, and that the Company may hereafter be reſponſible to him on account of theſe treaſures ; it may be ſaid, that there is ſuch a Prince, but he is almoſt without territory or power ; the little he poſſeſſes not being equal in extent or riches to one twentieth part of his dominions, and therefore unable to inforce in thoſe provinces any authority that might have formerly belong-

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ed to him; and he is now fo far reduced, as to be a captive to, and in the hands of, one of the Soubahs.

However, as I would give the Proprietors all the fatisfaction I can, as to this article, I will lay all the particulars before them, and for that purpofe I muft inform them, that as foon as it was known, that Sarajah Dowla was fled from the city, a new miniftry was immediately appointed, and the former officers became refponfible to them.

The gentlemen appointed by the Governor and Council to receive the money due by the treaty, were agents for this purpofe. As to myfelf, I was never there but once out of curiofity; and I do declare, that I never interfered, directly or indirectly, any further than what immediately related to the payment of the money ftipulated by the treaty.

The treafure was moft certainly the property of the Nabob Meer Jaffier, as it would have been of any other Nabob, who might have fucceeded to Sarajah Dowla; but for the application of the money, I will fuppofe, for once, that it did belong to the Great Mogul:

 furely

ſurely then it was out of that very Imperial treaſure the Company received 1,250,000 *l.* The ſufferers at Calcutta 1,000,000 *l.* and the navy and army 600,000 *l.* and that if Meer Jaffier had no right to give any part of the Imperial treaſure to individuals for their ſervices, he had no power to beſtow thoſe ſeveral large ſums to the Company, ſufferers, navy, and army; and if he was anſwerable for the one, he muſt for the other. If therefore, it was wrong in me to accept the favours of the Nabob out of that treaſury, certainly it muſt be ſo too in the Company, ſufferers, navy, and army.

As to what is inſinuated, that the donations given by the Nabob to individuals, had drained his treaſury in ſuch a manner, that the Company were obliged to lend him large ſums of money, this is not only a very unfair, but a falſe repreſentation of facts. The time the Company lent this money to the Nabob was, when his dominions were in peace, and the ſum was only two lack of rupees, about 25,000 *l.* the Nabob's miniſter himſelf informed me, he had then to the amount of near a million ſterling in

jewels, a large fum of money in his treafury, and to a very great amount in plate. It could not be owing to diftrefs that he borrowed this money: his pretences of poverty might have been made ufe of with a political view, as is the conftant practice in that country; or he might have defired to borrow money of the Company for fear they fhould defire to borrow of him. But the real fact was this; if I may be fuppofed to know it, who then prefided over the Company's affairs in Bengal.

By the IXth article of the treaty with the Nabob, the Company's poffeffions would have been of little confequence to them, unlefs we were allowed to put not only our own conftruction on the words of the article, but alfo to have an additional quantity of land to the northward, to the amount of near 12,000 *l.* per ann. In order to accomplifh this, we not only were obliged to comply with the Nabob's requeft, made at that particular time, but alfo to make prefents to feveral of the principal officers about him, to engage his confent to this grant, which he was not bound to make by treaty; and I believe the Directors know very

well,

well: if not, I am ſure the Governor and Council are well apprized of what conſequence it was to the Company, to obtain the grant of thoſe lands to the northward of Calcutta. I will venture to affirm, had the Nabob deſired a loan of money at any other time but this, his requeſt would not have been complied with.

The unfortunate Meer Jaffier was a ſtranger to diſtreſs until I had left the country. It was when the King's ſon, and a large body of Morattoes, invaded and ravaged his kingdom for a twelvemonth together, and had ſtopped the receipt of great part of his revenues. It was then that the Nabob began for the firſt time to experience the misfortunes of diſtreſs. Yet ſtill his diſtreſs was not ſo great, but that his ſucceſſor was able, immediately, to beſtow on the Company eight lack of rupees, or 100,000 *l.* ſterling, to carry on the war on the coaſt of Coromandel.

As to the fourth article, That no ſervant of the Company ſhall remit money home but by their caſh; which order I broke through, by remitting large ſums by the Dutch caſh. That

I did,

I did, jointly with my friends, remit a large ſum of money to England, by bills on the Dutch Company, is moſt true, for this reaſon only, that the Engliſh Company's treaſury was ſo full, that their ſervants abroad thought it inconſiſtent with the Company's intereſt to grant bills, when it was more than poſſible, the French might drive us out of all India, and the Company not only loſe what they had juſt acquired, but become reſponſible for the immenſe ſums, which under the terror that then prevailed of the French force, would be immediately poured into their treaſury: and though I ſhould have thought it a great advantage to have remitted my fortune home at that dangerous criſis, by bills on the Company, when the motion was made in council to receive all monies tendered for bills payable in three years. I was myſelf one of thoſe who oppoſed it; and the only money received into the treaſury was Mr. Watſon's eſtate, to ſhew a ſenſe of the ſervices received from him: Sums due to the merchants of London, for coral and bullion: ſmall ſums from the principal ſervants, for remittances to their families, and the purchaſe

of

of neceffaries, were received, and bills granted for them.

I flatter myfelf it will give me fome merit with the Company, that I oppofed the fatal defigns of the Dutch in the armament they had fent to Bengal, with fo much perfeverance, more efpecially as I had at that time the greateft part of my property in their power, the bills given me not being wholly due till three years after fight; and I could not but be very fenfible at that time of the rifque I ran, by fuch an oppofition to that dangerous undertaking; and I will venture to affirm, that had not my truftees agreed to accept the payment of the money upon the Dutch Company's own terms, which were a very confiderable deduction for prompt payment, the greateft part of my fortune would have been at this day in their hands.

As to the fifth article, That I was guilty of a breach of truft, by fupplying a Portuguefe fhip, bound from Bengal to Lifbon, with goods and money, to the great detriment of the Company; there is not one word of truth in the whole of this affertion. Thofe who did, may

may plead the ſame defence that I do for my remittance by the Dutch: the inference drawn is abſurd; the Company had more money than goods to purchaſe.

I now come to the laſt article, viz. That I have no right to an annual revenue of 27,000*l.* a year, given me by the Nabob, which muſt be ſupported and maintained at the Company's expence.

In this article, party reſentment ſeems to have confounded all ideas of right and wrong; and my oppoſition to the preſent leading gentlemen has caſt ſuch a miſt before their eyes, that they cannot diſcern that right which they had before acknowledged by every act that could expreſs it. But as I intend to make the Proprietors the judges of that right, I ſhall explain the cauſe, for which the Jaghire, or Lordſhip, which produces to me an annual income of about 30,000*l.* a year, was given me, and the nature of the grant by which I hold it.

Soon after the battle of Plaſſey, the Nabob, of his own free motion, without the leaſt hint or application from me, ſent a petition to the court

court of Dehli, that I might be created an Omrah, or Lord of the Empire. In the beginning of the year 1758, the Nabob received and delivered me the patent (with other honours accompanying it); by which I was created an Omrah of the command of 5000 foot, and the rank of 6000 horſe.

According to the cuſtom of the country, the Soubah aſſigns a Jaghire, or eſtate, within his own provinces, to ſupport the dignity of the new created Omrah; but at the time I received the patent of creation, I knew of no ſuch intention in the Nabob, whoſe friendſhip for me gave way to other views.

I have before hinted, that the Soubah's firſt plan was to evade the execution of the remaining part of the treaty, and to appear, in the eyes of his ſubjects, as maintaining himſelf by his own ſtrength, and not by our ſupport.

He took the field, as early as the ſeaſon would permit, with an army of 80,000 horſe and foot; and it was with reluctance that he ſent to me to join him with our troops, and more from the apprehenſion of leaving us ſo

near his capital during his abſence, than from any expectation of our aſſiſtance in the furthering of his deſigns.

We marched the army up, now reduced by the malignancy of the climate to 300 Engliſh, with two battalions of Seapoys, and a train of artillery.

At our firſt meeting I reproached him with the duplicity of his conduct, and inſiſted on his immediately paying down all arrears, and that he ſhould give ſecure aſſignments for the payment of the reſt of the treaty-money. I freely gave him my opinion of his keeping up ſuch a vaſt army, which drained his treaſury to no manner of purpoſe; that the example of his predeceſſor might be a leſſon to him how little ſuch troops were to be depended upon; and that when danger preſſed, he would find the Engliſh his only true and firm ſupport. In his exaltation to his new grandeur, and ſeeing himſelf at the head of ſuch a numerous army, my advice made little impreſſion; ſo I concluded with telling him, he might amuſe himſelf with his own ideas, but, in the mean time, that I was neither to be trifled with nor intimidated;

midated; and, after ſome ſtruggle, I obtained immediate payment of the arrears, amounting to ſeveral hundred thouſand pounds, and an aſſignment of certain diſtricts, the revenues of which were to be collected by the Company, as a ſecurity for the reſt; and from this inſtant the Nabob may have been ſaid to comply literally with his treaty.

Theſe were the Nabob's ſentiments at that time, and ſuch they continued until the following year, when the province of Bahar being invaded by the Mogul's ſon, (drove by the Vizier from his father's court) the Nabob attempted to take the field, and now experienced what I always inculcated to be true. Vaſt arrears were due to his numerous army, who, taking advantage of the times, ſurrounded him, and inſiſted not only on the whole of the arrears due from his predeceſſor as well as himſelf, but on an advance of pay. Theſe demands amounting to many millions, it was impoſſible he could comply with them.

In this exigency he applied to us, entertaining great doubts of our friendſhip, from the conſciouſneſs of the inſincere part he had acted, and

and from a juſt ſenſe of his own imprudence, in having neglected the advice I had given him the preceding year, to diſband the greateſt part of his large and uſeleſs army. Bound by treaty and intereſt, it behoved us to ſecure the attachment and dependancy of the Nabob. We immediately took the field, and relieved him, for the preſent, from the inconveniencies he laboured under from his own forces, who, over-awed by our preſence, deſiſted from their demands. Being joined by 8000 horſe and foot, under the command of his ſon the young Nabob, we marched four hundred miles in twenty-three days, and forced the enemy to raiſe the ſiege of Patna, the capital of the province of Bahar, and purſued them two hundred miles further, until they paſſed the boundaries of the Soubah's dominions, and then obliged the tributary Rajahs to pay their arrears. In the mean time, the Nabob's army had again ſurrounded him, and were become more outrageous than ever; and he was upon the point of being put to death, when the news of our ſucceſs diſperſed them, and they became as

ſubmiſſive and fawning, as they were before daring and inſolent.

Services rendered at ſuch a criſis, convinced him at laſt of the value of ſuch ſincere allies. On my return from the north he came to meet me, and after many obliging expreſſions, that I had ſaved his life, and made him a ſecond time Soubah, he reproached himſelf with ingratitude in never having appointed me a Jaghire. On taking his leave he told me, Jaggerſeat (a man of great note in that country) was intruſted with his orders on that ſubject. Jaggerſeat ſoon after put a paper roll into my hands, in the preſence of Mr. Francis Sykes, Mr. Luke Scrafton, (both now in England) and Major Carnac, which proved to be a patent for the Lordſhip of the lands rented by the Company, in conſequence of the article of our treaty with him. The patent was ſoon followed by the order in the Appendix, No. 3. being an order to the Governor and Council of Calcutta, to pay me the rents of the ſaid lands, inſtead of paying them as before into his treaſury, he having made me Jaghiredar, or Lord of the country.

Such

Such were the motives that induced the Nabob to give me this token of his ſenſe of my ſervices, and ſuch the manner in which it was conferred, by me unaſked and unexpected; I ſay unaſked and unexpected, becauſe, from the time of my receiving my honours from Dehli, in December 1757, to this time, nothing had ever paſſed on the ſubject, but one letter from me to Jaggerſeat, in January 1759, informing him, that the Nabob had made me an Omrah without a Jaghire, which I underſtood did uſually accompany it, and to deſire he would apply to him on that occaſion; to which letter he return anſwer, that he had applied to his Excellency, who ordered him to acquaint me, that he never granted Jaghires in Bengal; that Orixa was too poor, but that I might have one in Bahar. Looking on the Nabob's anſwer as an evaſive one, and that he was not inclined to comply with my requeſt, I never wrote or thought any more on this ſubject, until I received a ſecond letter from Jaggerſeat in anſwer to my firſt, after our ſucceſs againſt the King's ſon, that the Nabob had turned the thing in his mind, and was willing to grant me

a Jaghire in Bengal; but the nature of it, where, or of what value it was to be, I was intirely ignorant, till the patent explained it, and I confeſs it gave me the greater pleaſure to find it to be the Lordſhip of the Company's lands, becauſe the Company was thereby freed from all dependance on the government.

It now remains to ſay ſomething of the validity and nature of the grant. It is to be obſerved, that the lands ceded to the Company by the IXth article of the treaty, were only ceded to them as perpetual Jemindars, or renters, the Nabob reſerving the lordſhip and quit-rents, which amounted to near 30,000*l*. yearly; and the Company could never be lawfully diſpoſſeſſed, ſo long as they continued to pay that quit-rent. It was, then, the lordſhip and rents ſo reſerved that he made over to me; no prejudice reſulting to the Company, who had farmed out the ſame to a very conſiderable yearly amount, with a proſpect of great increaſe of rents, and only this difference, that they were to pay the quit-rent to me, inſtead of the government; to this nation a profit of 30,000*l*. a year.

With

With regard to the validity of this grant, I ſhall only ſay, that the patent paſſed all the uſual forms of the country, and was founded on the very ſame authority that the Company had for all their acquiſitions, the power of a Soubah. This I think is a ſufficient anſwer to the charge in the 6th and laſt article.

I ſhall now proceed to lay before the Proprietors the meaſures taken by my adverſaries, ſubſequent to the election, and the reaſons they aſſign to ſupport them.

But I ſhall firſt take notice, that by the ſervices rendered to the Nabob, the Company not only recovered the misfortunes ſuſtained from the late Nabob, with the poſſeſſions I have already mentioned, but alſo acquired, and had delivered into their hands, the abſolute power over the three provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixa, whoſe ordinary annual revenues produce three millions and a half ſterling; inſomuch that they were enabled to ſet up and eſtabliſh in the Soubahſhip any perſon they thought fit. This matter may be clearly ſeen by the letters in the Appendix, No. 3.

This power the Company, ſoon after I left Bengal, exerciſed, and in 1761 they entered into a treaty with Mahomed Coſſin Cawn, ſon-in-law to Meer Jaffier, for that purpoſe, (a copy of which treaty is in the Appendix, No. 4.) By this treaty the Company acquired a much larger diſtrict of country, than they before enjoyed under the treaty with Meer Jaffier, together with a larger eſtate and intereſt in thoſe lands, than they had in thoſe before granted; for the annual amount of the lands laſt acquired were near 600,000*l.* and inſtead of reſerving to the government the uſual rents of homage which thoſe lands were ſubject to, both the lands and thoſe rents were granted to the Company.

This treaty being ſigned by Mahomed Coſſin Cawn and the Preſidents of the Company at Calcutta, on behalf of the Company, the Nabob Meer Jaffier was ſurrounded in his palace by the ſervants of the Company, and obliged to relinquiſh his government, and was carried down to their ſettlement at Calcutta, where he did till lately reſide, and Mahomed

Coſſin

Coffin Cawn was placed in the executive part of the government in his ftead.

I fhall not at prefent enter into the confideration of the grounds and motives for fo early and extraordinary a change in the government of the provinces, being inclined to think thofe matters will be laid before you by perfons better acquainted with that tranfaction than I am. For the prefent I introduced it only to fhew the great advantages the revolution, brought about by the removal of Surajah Dowla, had produced to the Company; and that thofe advantages might, with prudent management, be increafed: but at the fame time I muft obferve, that the revolution againft Surajah Doula was a matter of neceffity, as upon that event only depended the exiftence of the India Company; and I hope nothing but the prefervation of the Company's property in thofe parts induced thofe concerned in the laft revolution (if it may be fo called) to bring it about.

I have before acknowledged, that my fortune arofe from the grateful bounty of the Nabob for my fervices to him; and altho' I fhall ever think of my fervices to the Company with

 pleafure,

pleaſure, yet the Company cannot ſay I owe them any thing in point of gratitude. My allowance, as Preſident, was (until increaſed by the additional allowance of 1000*l.* a year) leſs than any of my predeceſſors received by 1200*l.* a year. Indeed, had the Court of Directors rewarded my ſervices in the ſame manner they have done thoſe of my ſucceſſor, by allowing me two and an half per cent. on all their revenues and monies acquired for them, it might have been otherwiſe. My adverſaries cannot therefore ſay I acquired my fortune out of the property of the Company, or in diminution of that of my country, or any of my fellow-ſubjects: on the contrary, it is well known, that had it not been for the ſucceſſes we were bleſſed with, this kingdom would never have had the benefit of one farthing of the money which has been brought into it, in conſequence of thoſe ſucceſſes. This being the caſe, one might have expected, after ſo many years ſervice to the Company, and under the circumſtances I have deſcribed, they would at leaſt have permitted me to have had the quiet enjoyment of that fortune I had ſo obtained.

And here I muſt acquaint the Proprietors, that the rents of my Jaghire were regularly paid during the time I was in Bengal, and, ſince my return, have been received by my attornies in Bengal, and remitted by them to me, as the ſhips ſailed from thence, in bills on the Company here, which were always regularly paid without objection, until May laſt, when, on the ſhips going out for Bengal, which were the firſt that went out after the election on that voyage, I was given to underſtand, that orders had been ſent to ſtop the payment of my Jaghire. I applied to the Court of Directors for a copy of thoſe orders, but that was refuſed; however, I afterwards came to the knowledge of them. They are to the following purport: "With reſpect to the "Jaghire given by the late Nabob, Jaffier "Ally Khan, to Lord Clive, ariſing out of "the lands granted by the ſaid Nabob to the "Company, we direct, that you do not pay "any further ſums to the attornies of Lord "Clive on the account; and we further direct, that whatever ſhall ariſe in future from "the ſaid Jaghire, be carried to our credit.

"You

"You are to cause exact accounts to be made "out and transmitted to us, not only of what "shall so come into our cash, but also of all "the sums Lord Clive's attornies have already "received on the said account, together with "the dates of the several payments. His "Lordship's pretensions to the said Jaghire "will be settled here."

And Mr. Sulivan, by a letter wrote at the same time by him to the President at Calcutta, informed him, "That all cordiality being at an "end with Lord Clive, the Court of Directors "had stopped payment of his Jaghire; a "measure which would have taken place years "ago, had it not been for him (Mr. Sulivan); "and that on this head the said President was "to obey every order, which he might receive "from the Court of Directors; and that more "was not, nor must be, expected of him."

I shall not trouble the Proprietors with any observations on this order and letter, they will sufficienly speak for themselves; but shall only remark, that I must think it extremely hard to be deprived of my property because I cannot agree with the present Court of Directors.

But

But the Company having paid my jaghire ſo long without any objection, and even now not claiming any right thereto themſelves, nor pretending to ſay that any one elſe does; under ſuch circumſtances one might be at a loſs to conceive what foundation in reaſon there could be for the Directors ſending ſuch orders to Bengal. But, on inquiry into the matter, the reaſons aſſigned appear to be four.

1ſt. That the Mogul is ſovereign of the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixa, and proprietor of all the lands within thoſe provinces; and that the rents granted to me are the antient imperial rents reſerved and payable to the Emperor; and that therefore the Nabob could not grant or alienate the ſame from the imperial Crown; and that the Company may be called to an account by the Emperor for what they have paid to me: Nor is that all the Company ſeem to expect, but that I am accountable to them for what I have received.

2dly. That ſuppoſe the Nabob had a right to alienate thoſe rents, ſuch alienation could exiſt

exiſt no longer than the Nabob who granted the ſame continued in his government, and that ſuch alienation was not binding on his ſucceſſor; and as Meer Jaffier had been depoſed, the grant became of no effect.

3dly. That my acceptance of the dignity of an Omrah, or title of honour, (which honour they doubt my having had, altho' they have a copy of the Patent in their cuſtody) was contrary to my duty to the Company, as I might be obliged, by ſuch acceptance, to aſſiſt the Mogul and the Nabob in war, even againſt the Company.

And laſtly, for fear theſe reaſons ſhould fail them, then comes a fourth; which is, that ſuppoſe I have a right, that even then I have no remedy in England, but muſt reſort to the court of the Mayor of Calcutta, or to the courts of the Emperor at Delhi, or the court of the Nabob.

As to the firſt, it may be proper to obſerve, that, upon the original foundation of the Mogul Empire, all the lands, like thoſe in England, were in the crown, who granted the rents, in the nature of fee-farm

farm rents in England: Thefe lands were, and now are, called Calfa Lands, or lands belonging to the crown; the rents whereof were, for feveral years, received by officers appointed within the provinces by the Emperor for that purpofe; and the Nabobs, who were then Vice-roys to the Mogul, had penfions affigned them to maintain their courts, and fupport their governments: But, for a great number of years paft, that method has been changed, and inftead of penfions, the Emperors allotted to the Nabobs large quantities of land within the provinces, to be difpofed of and managed for their own benefit; and thefe lands were, and now are, called Jaghire Lands, and for which no taxes are paid: And as to the reft of the lands within the provinces, the Nabobs farmed the fame of the Mogul at a certain yearly fum.

This alteration being received into the Mogul government, it became immaterial to the Mogul what the Nabobs did with the rents; the yearly fum ftipulated was all he expected, and that they were obliged to pay; fo that all the rents, and alfo the lands that produced

them,

them, were under the power of the Nabobs, who might and did diſpoſe of them as they thought fit, and out of them conferred favours on whom they pleaſed. The Nabobs granted zemindaries or leaſes of all the lands from time to time at their pleaſure, or as occaſion required; and in this ſtate the conſtitution and uſage of the Mogul Empire ſtood at the death of Aurengzebe.

After the death of Aurengzebe, the Nabobs began to aſſume ſovereign authority, and the invaſion of the Perſians, before taken notice of, rendered that ſovereignty abſolute; and the Nabobs do now, and have for many years, exerciſed all thoſe ſovereign rights, regarding the lands and revenues of the provinces, which the Mogul Emperors ever had.

It is under the authority of the Nabob, the Company now hold their zemindary in the lands ſubject to my jaghire; it is under the ſame authority, they now hold by treaty with the Nabob Coſſin Cawn large diſtricts of country, producing near 600,000l. a year to them, without paying any rent at all, notwithſtanding thoſe lands are calſa or imperial lands,

and

and would, in cafe the original conftitution of the Mogul Empire exifted, be fubject to the payment of the antient referved rents to the Great Mogul, to a very large amount; it is well known that there are numbers of jaghires in the province of Bengal, granted by former Nabobs, that have fubfifted for feveral generations.

Yet as to my jaghire, they now at once alledge it was an illegal act in Meer Jaffier, and at the fame time admit that the Company are in the enjoyment of all the lands granted to them by the Nabob Coffin Cawn, without paying or being fubject to any rent at all; and that the grant from Coffin Cawn to them, both of the lands and ancient rents, is valid and effectual: this feems a contradiction not eafily to be reconciled. But for a moment, let us fuppofe that the fears the Company entertained at that inftant, of being accountable to the Great Mogul, might have obfcured the light which the comparifon of things alone would have difcovered, and that the Mogul fhould hereafter recover the antient dominion of his empire; it muft then be obferved, that the annual tribute fti-

pulated to be paid by the Nabob on his confirmation, is in fact the fame annual fum formerly referved and paid by the Nabobs for the farm of the rents and lands within the provinces. Can it then be fuppofed that the Mogul would require both the revenues of the lands, and alfo the annual fum ftipulated to be paid by the Nabob, in lieu of thofe revenues? It might, with fome degree of probability, have been faid, that he might, according to the conftitution of the empire, call the Nabobs, who might then be confidered as his Viceroys, to an account for all the annual tribute remaining due from them: But to fay the Company would be anfwerable to the Mogul for the rents paid by them to me, is an inconfiftency equal to the former, and not to be reconciled to reafon or the nature of things: And even to furnifh themfelves with this pretence, bad as it is, they muft have had a very extraordinary forefight; and I fhould be glad to have been informed of the period fuch a reckoning was likely to take place.

I have before taken notice of the prefent circumftances of the Mogul, and by what means

a Prince

a Prince, under his circumſtances, or even ſuppoſing him in as good a ſituation as his predeceſſors for ſeveral years paſt have been, could recover the dominions of large and powerful provinces, which had long ſhaken off his authority, I am really at a loſs to gueſs. But, to remove any doubt the proprietors may entertain concerning the power and dominion of the Great Mogul in Bengal, or the ſovereign authority of the Nabob, I will repeat the account given by your Directors of thoſe Meaſures under their hands to his Majeſty, in the year 1762, in a memorial preſented by them relative to the tranſactions with the Dutch, which account is in the following words:

"By the antient conſtitution of the Mogul "Empire, of which the provinces of Bengal, "Bahar, and Orixa, are a part, the Nabob "or Soubah of thoſe provinces was nothing "more than the Mogul's Viceroy, yet, for "many years paſt, as the ſtrength of that "conſtitution has been gradually declining, "the Soubahs of theſe and other provinces "have been in like gradation aſſuming an "independance of the Court of Delhi, and

" the ſhock which the empire received, or ra-
" ther the ſubverſion of it, for it has never
" recovered, nor probably ever will, from the
" irruption of the Perſians under Nadir Shah,
" has ſo far confirmed that independance,
" that the relation between the Nabob and
" the Mogul, is at preſent little more than
" nominal. The Nabob makes war or peace
" without the privity of the Mogul, though
" there appear ſtill ſome remains of the old
" Conſtitution in the ſucceſſion to the Na-
" bobſhip, yet in fact that ſucceſſion is never
" regulated by the Mogul's appointment, tho'
" the perſon in poſſeſſion is generally deſi-
" rous of fortifying a diſputed title by the
" Mogul's confirmation, which the Court of
" Delhi, conſcious of its inability to inter-
" poſe, more ſubſtantially, and deſirous of re-
" taining an appearance of ſuperiority, rea-
" dily grants. The Nabob of Bengal is
" therefore *de facto*, whatever he may be *de*
" *jure*, a ſovereign Prince, or at worſt, not a
" vice-roy, but a tributary to the Mogul:
" there being ſome kind of tribute ſtill con-
" ſidered as due, from theſe provinces to the
Mogul,

"Mogul, though it rarely, if ever, finds its "way to Delhi. It appears by the Director's "letters, that the Dutch, as well as we, con-"fider him in this light."

I muft obferve, that the Dutch, in order to give fome colour for their complaints againft the Company, made ufe of the following allegation, *viz.* "The Mogul is fovereign of the "country, and we derive from him, under "repeated phirmaunds, a right to a free navi-"gation from thence to other places; and this "right we cannot be deprived of, without in-"fringing the phirmaunds of the Great Mo-"gul, which the Nabob, who is only gover-"nor of a province, is not authorized to do."

And it was in anfwer to this allegation the declaration above-mentioned was made by your Directors, who now find themfelves under the fatal neceffity, on behalf of the Company, of making ufe of the fame reafons for juftifying their conduct towards me, as the Dutch made ufe of to juftify theirs towards the Company.

As to the 2d reafon affigned by your Directors, it might, perhaps, have been well for the proprietors, had it never been in their

power to have employed it. But as it is affigned as fuch, I will anfwer it as I would have done, at the time it was offered by them, without any regard to what has happened, fince that may have deprived them of the ufe they at firft propofed from it.

There are numbers of inftances of Jaghires now fubfifting, that have been granted by former Nabobs: there are many, even on the Company's own lands, of which the Directors might have been informed by the proper officer appointed for furveying thofe lands, who is now in England; and they might alfo have been informed, that there were many Jaghires granted by the Nabobs Surajah Dowla and Meer Jaffier alfo exifting. But enquiry here, feemed not neceffary; the Directors at once boldly affirm, my Jaghire to be determined by the removal of Meer Jaffier from the throne, fince the grant did not, as they alledge, bind his fucceffor; without the leaft confideration of the natural inference fuch an affertion might produce.

I have before taken notice, that his Majefty's arms, and thofe of the Company, by

the revolution brought about whilſt I was the Commander in Chief, acquired the great power and influence the Company enjoyed in Bengal, when I left that country; and that that power after I came away, was made uſe of to depoſe the Prince who ſat on the throne whilſt I was there, and, to eſtabliſh Mahomed Coſſin Cawn in his ſtead. It is under theſe circumſtances, that the Directors make uſe of the 2d reaſon. Now to give that reaſon its utmoſt latitude, it can amount to no more than an admiſſion from the Company, that I had once a good right to require from them the payment of my Jaghire: but that this right is now defeated by a ſubſequent act, entirely effected by their own agents abroad. The weight and juſtice of this argument I leave to your conſiderations.

Before I quit this head, I muſt beg leave to take notice of the forms agreed on between the Company, and Mahomed Coſſin Cawn, which may be ſeen in the Appendix, and by which it will appear, that Meer Jaffier was to remain Nabob to all purpoſes, except the executive part of the government, which was to

be the province of the new Nabob. This being the basis of that revolution, if it may be so called, it will appear, that the Nabob, Meer Jaffier still remained Nabob of Bengal; and it is well known, that he did till lately, reside at the Company's factory, at Calcutta, in princely state; and even supposing my Jaghire to be good no longer than the reign of the person who granted it, it would be still subsisting. However, your Directors do now in effect declare, that they will retain my Jaghire for the benefit of the Great Mogul (who would certainly be glad to receive it, as Coffin Ally would readily give any directions touching that matter the Directors think proper to suggest to him) and that, in prejudice to me and their country; though they at the same time are influenced to retain the rents of the lands granted to them, not only by Coffin Cawn, but also by the Nabob Meir Jaffier, in prejudice to the Great Mogul.

As to the 3d reason; here I must beg leave to observe, that the titles of honour used in Europe, are unknown to the Indians; their titles of honour are distinguished only by a

number of Azaras, or one thoufand, from two to ten thoufand horfe, which is the higheft, and was the title of the fon of the Great Mogul: the number of fix thoufand expreffes the dignity of an Omra, but not any lefs number; and the equipage of the perfon on whom fuch honours are beftowed, are proportioned by the ufage of the country to his rank. Hence it will appear, that of neceffity, no perfon can be ennobled in India, unlefs the rank and number he is appointed to, be expreffed in the patent; and this is a mere compliment, which does not lay any obligation on the part of the perfon receiving fuch honour, to render to the Mogul any fervices whatfoever; and to affirm the contrary, it muft be prefumed that the Nabob, in the prefent cafe, applied to the Mogul to take me into his fervice: who, in fuch fervice, might (if the emperor meant to recover the ancient dominion of his empire, or the payment of his annual tribute) be employed againft the Nabob himfelf, if military fervices were to be rendered to the Mogul; which would be an abfurdity to fuppofe.

But the true intent of the honour, was no more than a perfonal favour to me, and to give me rank amongft the Princes and great men of that country; and may have been of fervice to you in my negotiations and tranfactions with them. Monfieur Dupleix, the commander in chief of the French forces in India, obtained a title of honour, inferior to mine, and had feveral Jaghires granted him by the Nabob of the Decan in Lands, ceded to the French Company, which he enjoyed for feveral years after he returned to Europe, and indeed until the lands, upon which the Jaghires were granted, were taken from the French. And Monfieur Dupleix confidered his title of honour, as an advantage to the French in thofe parts.

As to the 4th reafon, it is well known, was I obliged to purfue my remedy in the Mayor's Court, that the judges of that court are dependants upon the Company: the appeal lies to their prefident and council, nay the perfon employed on my behalf, muft be dependant on the Company. As to my reforting to the courts of the Emperor or the Nabob, no mandate or procefs from any fuch courts could

be

be inforced againſt the Company; and were theſe reaſons to prevail, every avenue to juſtice would be blocked up, and I ſhould enjoy the ſatisfaction in my own mind, of having a right to what I now demand, without any remedy to obtain it.

I ſhall end this memorial with ſome obſervations on the Company's affairs, at the time the loſs of their poſſeſſions in Bengal happened, and the regaining thoſe poſſeſſions, with all their preſent great advantages.

When the news of the misfortunes in Bengal firſt reached Madraſs, the whole town was flung into a conſternation, equal to that of the Court of Directors, when the firſt advices of it were brought to England. I leave it to Mr. Payne, who was then at the head of the Direction, to deſcribe what he and others ſuffered from their apprehenſions for the Company. Indeed it is the general opinion, that nothing but the ſudden advice of the recovery of that valuable ſettlement, which followed ſo cloſe upon the news of its loſs, could have prevented the Company's ſinking under ſuch a misfortune.

It

It was the unanimous opinion of the Governor and Council of Madrafs, that the Company could not exift without their poffeffions in Bengal. The coaft of Coromandel was a burthen to them; inftead of defraying the Company's expences, out of the profits of its trade, it had incurred a debt of near half a million. Bombay and the Weft Coaft (free from all difturbances) fcarce paid their expences; fo that there remained only a few fhips to China, for the Company's fupport. Thefe confiderations, and a thorough perfuafion that the Company muft fall, if Bengal was not recovered, induced the Governor and Council of Madrafs, to fend fuch a force as might anfwer that purpofe: I was the perfon fixed upon to execute their defigns; and as the force fent was more than could be fpared, confiftent with the fafety of the Company's poffeffions on the coaft of Coromandel, at that critical time (being juft at the eve of a war with France) they invefted me with a power, independant of the Governor and Council of Fort William, that when the Company were re-inftated in their poffeffions, they might be able to recall

fuch

ſuch part of the forces under my command, as might be thought conſiſtent with the Company's intereſt, in other parts of India.

As ſoon as the ſufferers of Bengal were reſtored to their habitations, by the re-taking of Calcutta, and to peace, by the defeating of Surajah Dowla, they called upon me to give up that independant power, which the Governor and Council of Madraſs had thought neceſſary to intruſt me with, which demand I could not comply with, without being guilty of a breach of truſt.

This circumſtance laid me under many difficulties, both with the gentlemen of Bengal and Madraſs. The Governor and Council of the latter had ſent me poſitive orders to return with a part of the forces under my command, after the capture of Charnagore, and not knowing the cauſe, could not account for my diſobedience: the many dreadful conſequences to which I expoſed myſelf, in caſe of a miſcarriage, did not eſcape my reflection. I was under theſe difficulties, when we began our march to dethrone Surajah Dowla.

Mr.

Mr. Watts had settled every thing with Meer Jaffier, and the other great officers of ſtate, who had all engaged in the moſt ſolemn manner, to declare themſelves, and join us with a large force, before we came to action. We marched within twenty miles of the Soubah's army, and then halted, to receive intelligence of the motions and intentions of our friends; when to our great ſurprize, Meer Jaffier gave us no hopes of his being able to join us, but expreſſed great apprehenſions of his and our letters being intercepted, and himſelf being put to death. I wrote repeatedly to him, to inſiſt upon his performing his engagements, and to join us, if it was only with 500 men. This had no effect; I then called a council of war, and put the queſtion, Whether with our own forces alone, and without the proſpect of aſſiſtance from Meer Jaffier, we ſhould march, and give the Nabob battle, and it paſſed in the negative. After this, I received a letter from Meer Jaffier, that the Nabob ſuſpecting his deſigns, had made him ſwear on the Koran, that he would not fight againſt him, and that he could not give us his aſſiſtance.

ance. Let the Proprietors paint to themfelves what I muft have fuffered, under fuch a complication of diftreffed circumftances; and let the Directors remember, that under all thefe difadvantages, I took upon me to march, and the Englifh arms alone gained the battle of Plaffey. It is true, the Directors, in their firft flow of gratitude, conferred upon me an honour, I believe, never paid to any other before, or fince, by addreffing a letter of thanks to me alone, figned by the whole court; and that I might be convinced of the fincerity of their fentiments, they fent no lefs than fix or eight of them, which I have in my poffeffion. But as length of time, and circumftances, feem to have produced another way of thinking in thefe gentlemen, I hope the Proprietors will excufe me, if I affert, for the laft time, that by the great acquifitions of wealth obtained by this event, and by the large fums of money paid into their cafh, for bills, the Company were enabled to fupply every exigence, and anfwer the demands of every fettlement in India, during the whole courfe of the war. To Madrafs alone, was

fent upwards of 300,000 l. which muft inevitably have fallen, without fuch affiftance; and with that place, all India. The Company who ufed to fend to India feveral hundred thoufand pounds a year, in bullion, were relieved from that difficulty; which, at fuch a juncture, they never could have furmounted; and from February, 1758, the time they received the advice of our fuccefs, to this day, they have fent very little to the coaft, and ftill lefs to Bengal; fo that this alone has been a faving to the nation of fome millions fterling. The lands ceded to the Company by Coffin Cawn, and all the advantages gained by the depofition of Meer Jaffier, muft appear as much a confequence of the battle of Plaffey, as the advantages which were gained immediately after that victory: the whole amounting to 700,000 l. a year, may, at 10 years purchafe, be valued at 7 millions fterling; the reftitution made to the fufferers of Calcutta, and what was given by Meer Jaffier to the navy, army, and others, may be reckoned at 2,000,000 l. fortunes acquired fince, at a moderate computation, 1,500,000 l. the Company themfelves likewife received

received from Surajah Dowla and Meer Jaffier, 1,500,000 l. upon the whole, a clear gain to the nation of twelve millions ſterling.

I ſhall conclude this ſubject with appealing to the Court of Directors, for the truth of theſe facts, and call upon them to declare whether they think without the battle of Plaſſey, and its conſequences, the Eaſt-India Company would have been at this time exiſting? As great numbers of the Proprietors may be unacquainted with theſe tranſactions, I hope they will excuſe the neceſſity I have been under, of laying the whole before them, which I ſubmit to their conſideration, juſtice, and candour.

CLIVE.

APPENDIX.

Meer Jaffier Cawn Bahadr A ſervant of the King Allumgur the Invincible.	Rajah Dulubram Bahadr A ſervant of the King Allumgur the Invincible

Treaty executed by Meer Jaffier, *(wrote in his own Hand.)*

I SWEAR by God, and the Prophet of God, to abide by the terms of this treaty whilſt I have life.

Meer Mahmud Jaffier Cawn Behadr,
a Servant of the King Allumgur.

Treaty made with the Admiral and Colonel Clive Sabut Jung Behadr, *the other Counſellors Mr.* Drake *and Mr.* Watts.

1ſt. Whatever articles were agreed on in time of peace with the Nabob Surajah Dowla Munſur Ulmemaleck Shah Kulli Cawn Behadr Stybut Jung, I agree to and comply with.

2d. The enemies of the Engliſh are my enemies, whether they be Indians or Europeans.

3. All the effects and factories belonging to the French in the provinces of Bengal (the Paradife of nations) and Bahar and Orixa, fhall remain in the poffeffion of the Englifh; nor will I ever allow them any more to fettle in the three provinces.

4th. In confideration of the loffes which the Englifh Company have fuftained by the capture and plunder of Calcutta by the Nabob and the charges occafioned by the maintainance of their forces, I will give them one crore of rupees.

5th. For the effects plundered from the Englifh inhabitants of Calcutta, I agree to give fifty lacks of rupees.

6th. For the effects plundered from the Gentoos, Muffulmen, and others, fubjects of Calcutta, twenty-five lacks of rupees fhall be given.

7th. For the effects plundered from the Armenian inhabitants of Calcutta I will give the fum of feven lacks of rupees. The diftribution of the fums allotted the natives, Englifh inhabitants, Gentoos, and Muffulmen, fhall be

left

left to the Admiral and Colonel Clive Sabut Jung Behadr, and the reſt of the council, to be diſpoſed of by them to whom they think proper.

8th. Within the Ditch which ſurrounds the borders of Calcutta are tracts of land, belonging to ſeveral Zemindars; beſides this I will grant the Engliſh Company ſix hundred yards without the ditch.

9th. All the lands lying to the ſouth of Calcutta, as far as Culpee, ſhall be under the Zemindary of the Engliſh Company; and all the officers of thoſe parts ſhall be under their juriſdiction; the revenues to be paid by them (the Company) in the manner with other Zemindars.

10th. Whenever I demand the Engliſh aſſiſtance, I will be at the charge of the maintenance of their troops.

11th. I will not erect any new fortifications below Hughly, near the river Ganges.

12th. As ſoon as I am eſtabliſhed in the government of the three provinces, the aforeſaid ſums ſhall be faithfully paid.

Dated 15th Ramſan, in the fourth year of the reign.

Tranflation of the Sunnod *granted to* Col. Clive.

1758.

HIS MAJESTY,

ON Saturday the 12th of Rebbeafame, in the fourth of the glorious and happy reign, and the 1171 year of the Hedgeree, in the Keffalla of the Glory of the Nobility, and Rank of Ameers, the Shrine of Grandeur and Dignity; inftructed both in the ways of Devotion and Wealth, to whom the true Glory of Religion and Kingdoms is known; the Bearer of the Lance of Fortitude and Refpect, the Embroiderer of the Carpet of Magnificence and Greatnefs, the Support of the Empire and its Dependencies, to whom it is intrufted to govern and aggrandize the Empire, and Conductor of Victory in the Battles fought for the Dominion of the World; the Diftributer of Life in the Councils of State, to whom the moft fecret Receffes of the Myfteries of Government are difcovered; the Mafter of the Arts of Penetration and Circumfpection, the

Brightnefs of the Mirrour of Truth and Fidelity, the Light of the Torch of Sincerity and Integrity, who is admitted to, and contributes to, the Determinations of the Royal Councils; a Participator of the Secrets of the Penetralia of Friendfhip, who prefides equally over the Sword and Pen; Moderator of the Affairs of the Earth, Chief of the Cawns of the moft exalted rank, the Pillar of Ameers of the greateft Splendor; the Truft of the zealous Champions of the Faith, the Glory of Horfes in the Fields of War, and Adminiftrators of the Affairs of the immoveable Empire; Counfellor of enlightened Wifdom and exalted Dignity, adorned with Friendfhip and Honours, endowed with Dignity and Difcretion. Pillar of the Dominions of Soloman, the Diftributor of Glory, Buxey of the Empire, Ameer of Ameers, Hero of the Empire, Tiger of the Country, Mahmud Ahmeed Cawn, the brave Tiger of War, the Commander in Chief of the Forces glorious by Victory; the Tiger of Hind, mighty in Battle.

 And

And in the time of the Waga Magarree of the leaſt of the domeſtics of the Court of Glory and Majeſty Sookaab.

This was written, the command (above) was paſſed, that Colonel Clive, an European, be favoured with a Munſub of the rank of 6000 and 5000 horſe, and the title of "Flower of "the Empire, Defender of the Country, the "Bravo firm in War." This was entered the 10th day of Rebbeaſame, in the 4th year, according to the original Yaddaſt.

FORM of the SIGNING.

To the Glory of Nobility, and Rank of Ameers, the Shrine of Grandeur, Dignity inftructed, &c. Be it entered in the Waka.

According to the account fent by the Vifier of the Empire, Adminiftrator of all affairs taken from the account under the Seal of Rampurfand Vakeel, of the Nagem of Bengal. - - - 6000 Rank - - - 5000 Horfe - - -

After the manner of the Waka, it is concluded.

Written on the Day above-mentioned of the fame Moon, of the glorious happy Reign.

The Copy of this Sunnud was entered in the Books of Waka Pagarree, on the 14th of Rabbafams, in the Fourth Year of his Majefty's reign.

Sun, 1171. The Servant of Allumgeer, the Warlike King, whofe Glory is equal to that of Jumfhad, mighty in War, the Flower of the Country, Chief of the Forces, the Glory of Victory, the Tiger of Hind, Mahmud Ahmeed Cawn, the brave Tiger of War, Buxey of the Empire, Ameer of Ameers, the Tiger of the Country, Sun 4.

Entered in the Duan's Office, in the 25th of Rebbea Sanne, in the 4th Year of his Majefty's Reign.

Sun, 1167, the Slave of Alumgeer, the Warlike King, Sookaab, Sun the Firft.

The Copy of this Sunnud was fent to the Office of the Waka Nigarree, on the 14th of Rabbea Samme, in the 4th Year of his Majefty's Reign.

The Slave of Alumgeer, the Warlike King, the Flower of the Country, brave in War, the glory of Wealth, Zechaza Cawn, Behadre, 4 Sun, of Reign.

NUMBER III.

1758.

Tranſlation of a Perwannah (or Order) from the Nabob Shujah Ulmulk Hoſſum o'Dowla Meer Mahmud Jaffier Cawn Bahdr Mohabut Sung, *to the Honourable Preſident and Council.*

BE it known to the nobleſt of merchants, the Engliſh Company, That whereas the Glory of the Nobility, Zubdut Ulmulk Nuſſeera Dowla Colonel Clive Subat Jung Behadr, has been honoured with a Munſub (or title) of the rank of 6000 and 5000 horſe from the Imperial Court, and has exerted himſelf, in conjunction with me, with the moſt ſteady attachment, and in the moſt ſtrenuous manner, in the protection of the imperial territories; in recompence thereof, the Pergana (or county) of Calcutta, *&c.* belonging to the Chucta (or juriſdiction of Hughley, *&c.* of the Sircar Sauntgaum, *&c.* (or treaſury) dependant on the Calſa Shereefa and Jagueer, amounting to two hundred and twenty-two thouſand nine hundred and fifty-eight Sa. Rs. and ſomething more,

more, conferred by the Dewannee Sunnud (or King's Lord Treaſurer of the province) on the Engliſh Company, as their Zemindarrie, commencing from the month Poos, (or December) in the eleven hundred and ſixty-fourth year of the Bengal ſtyle, from the half of the ſeaſon Rabbee Sooſcanneel, in the eleven hundred and ſixty-fifth year of the Bengal ſtyle, is appointed the Jagueer of the glory of the nobility aforeſaid. It behoves you to look upon the above-written perſon as the lawful Jagueerda (or Lord) of that place; and in the ſame manner as you formerly delivered in the due rents of the government, according to the Kiſsbundee, (or written agreement) into the treaſury of the court, and the Jagueer taking a receipt under the ſeal of the Drogha (or Receiver-General) and Muſhreef, and Treaſurer; now in like manner you are regularly to deliver to the above-mentioned Jagueerdar the rents, according to the ſtated payments, and receive a receipt from the aforeſaid perſon. Be punctual in the ſtrict execution of this writing.

Written

Written the firft of Zeckaida 6[d] fun (or year) of the reign.

It is paffed. (The Nabob's mark.)

N. B. Endorfements.

(The Royran's figning.)

D H

Copied in the books of entered in the books of the Huzzoor, the Dewannee, the 1ft of the 1ft of the Mohurrum, the 6th fun (or year) of the reign, the Mohurrum, the 6th of the reign.

N. B.

Signed by the Dewannee
Pefhker, or Accomptant
Secretary. N. B.

Signed by the Nabob Nloon.

Explanation of the Terms ufed in Colonel Clive's *Perwannah for his Jagueer.*

Perwannah, A warrant, or a letter from any perfon in a fuperior ftation to a dependant.

Munful, A dignity.

Calfa Shereef, The office in which all the King's accounts are paffed.

Jagueer, Lands affigned by the King for the main-

maintenance of a Munſubdar, or contradiſtinction to the Calix. It ſignifies the revenues appropriated to the uſe of the Subahdre and his family.

Dewannee, The Dewan is the King's agent for the collection of his revenues.

Rebbee. The year in all public regiſters is divided into two ſeaſons, the one called Kherief, which comprehends the months of Aſſin, Cartie, Aghun, Poos, Maug, Phagum; the other Cheif, Byſaac, Int, Aſſar, Sawun, Bhadun. The latter half of the ſeaſon Relba commences 1ſt of the month Aſſar, on the 12th of June, from which time the Jagueer takes place.

Hiſsbundee, A contract from the acquittance of a debt by ſtated payments.

Huzzoor, Literally the preſence, applied by way of eminence to the Nabob's court.

Hoſkaneel, I have not had time to inform myſelf of the exact meaning of this word, but believe it to be the name of the preſent year, the regiſters of this empire accounting a perpetual revolution of twelve years, each of which is differently named.

A

A LETTER to ROBERT CLIVE, Efq;

SIR,

OUR moft ferious attention has been devoted to the commands of our Honourable Employers *per* Hardwick, naming a rotation of Governors for the future management of their affairs at this fettlement; and having duly weighed the nature of this regulation, with all its attending confequences, a fincere conviction of its being, in our prefent fituation and circumftances, repugnant to the true intereft of our Honourable Mafters, and the welfare of the fettlement in general, obliges us, (though with the utmoft refpect and deference) to believe, that had our employers been apprized of the prefent ftate of their affairs in this kingdom, they would have placed the prefidentfhip in fome one perfon, as the cleareft and eafieft method of conducting their concerns, as well as preferving and maintaining the weight and influence the late happy revolution has given us with the Soubah of thefe provinces; on which influence, at the prefent period, the intereft and welfare of the Company depends

depends in the higheſt degree at this ſettlement. The difficulties we may be liable to by a rotation in the executive part of government, with its conſequences, are ſufficiently obvious in our preſent ſtate of affairs: we will, however mention, only a few points. The treaty with the Nabob not perfected in all its branches; the poſſeſſions of the lands incompleat; the ſettlement in no poſture of defence; the French conſiderably reinforced with military and a fleet; their deſigns with reſpect to Bengal hitherto unknown; and the impoſſibility of impreſſing a proper idea of this divided power in the minds of the Soubah and others of this kingdom, who have at all times been accuſtomed to the government of a ſingle perſon. A little reflection will introduce many more, and clearly evince the neceſſity of this addreſs.

The gentlemen nominated Governors, in the Honourable Company's commands *per* Hardwick, have the higheſt ſenſe of gratitude for the honour conferred on them by our Employers in their appointment, but deem themſelves in duty bound, at this juncture of affairs, to wave all perſonal honours and advantages;

tages; and declare, as their fentiment, That a rotation in the executive part of government, for the foregoing reafons, would be extremely prejudicial to the real intereft of the Company; in which opinion we unanimoufly concur, and judge it for the welfare of our Honourable Employers, and of the fettlement in general, to deviate in this inftance from the commands of our Honourable Mafters, and fix the Prefidentfhip in a fingle perfon, till we hear further from Europe.

Your being named as head of the General Committee, (in the letter of the 3d of Auguft laft) eftablifhed at that time for conducting the Company's affairs in Bengal; your eminent fervices, abilities, and merit, together with your fuperior weight and influence with the prefent Soubah and his officers, are motives which have great force with us on this occafion, and all concur in pointing out you as the perfon beft able to render our Hon. Employers neceffary fervice at this juncture, till they fhall make their further pleafure known, by the appointment of a Prefident for their affairs here.

Thefe

Thefe reafons urge us to make you an offer of being Prefident of the Company's affairs in Bengal, till a perfon is appointed by the Honourable Company; and we flatter ourfelves you will be induced to accept of our offer, from your wonted regard to the intereft of our Honourable Employers, and zeal for the welfare of their affairs, which, we doubt not, you are, as well as ourfelves, convinced will be much prejudiced by a rotation in the executive part of government.

We want your reply, and have the honour to be,

S I R,

Your moft obed. and moft humb. Servants,

Wm. Watts.
C. Manningham.
Rich. Beecher.
M. Collett.
W. Mackett.
Tho. Boddam.

Fort William,
26th *June*, 1758.

Minutes out of the Court Books of the East-India *Company.*

AT a Court of Directors held, on Wednesday, February 6, 1754, Minutes of the Committee of Correfpondence, dated the 5th inftant, being read, it was unanimoufly

Refolved, That a fword fet with diamonds, to the value of 500l. be prefented by the Court to Capt. Robert Clive, as a token of their efteem for him, and fenfe of his fingular Services to the Company upon the coaft of Coromandel.

At a general Court held on Wednefday, December 21, 1757, on a motion, and the queftion being put, it was

Refolved, That the Thanks of this General Court be given to Lieutenant Colonel Robert Clive, for his eminent and fignal fervices to this Company.

At a General Court held on Wednefday, Sept. 24, 1760, the Chairman from the Court of Directors informed this Court, that fuch impor-

important ſervices had been rendered to the Company in the Eaſt-Indies by Vice-Admiral Pocock, and the Colonels Clive and Lawrence, as appeared from the accounts formerly laid before this Court, and lately received, to demand ſome farther marks of the Court's ſenſe thereof than had been already expreſſed; and moving the Court thereupon, it was on the queſtion

Reſolved unanimouſly, That the thanks of this Court be given to Vice-Admiral Pocock, Colonel Robert Clive, and Colonel Stringer Lawrence, for their many eminent and ſignal ſervices to this Company.

And another motion being made,

Ordered, That the Chairman, and Deputy-Chairman, wait upon thoſe Gentlemen, and acquaint them with this mark of this Courts great regard for their ſervices.

And another being made, it was on the queſtion

Reſolved unanimouſly, That the Chairman and Deputy, when they wait upon Vice-Admiral Pocock, Colonel Clive, and Colonel Lawrence,

will desire those Gentlemen to give their consent that their Portraits, or Statues, be taken, in order to be placed in some conspicuous parts of this House; that their eminent and signal services to this Company, may be ever had in remembrance.

NUMBER I.

Copy of the Company's Letter to Colonel CLIVE, *dated* March 8, 1758.

SIR,

OUR ſentiments of gratitude for the many great ſevices you have rendered to this company, together with the thanks of the General Court, have been hitherto conveyed thro' the channel of our general letters, but the late extraordinary and unexpected revolution in Bengal, in which you had ſo great a ſhare of action, both in the *Cabinet and the Field*, merits our more particular regard; and we do accordingly embrace this opportunity of returning you our moſt ſincere and hearty thanks for the zeal, good conduct, and intrepidity, which you have ſo eminently exerted on this glorious occaſion, as well as for *the great and ſolid advantages* reſulting therefrom to the Eaſt-India Company.

We earneſtly wiſh your health may permit your continuance in India for ſuch further term as will give you an opportunity of ſecuring the foundation you have laid, as likewiſe to give your aſſiſtance in putting the company's

Mercantile and Civil Affairs on a proper and advantageous footing, upon the plans now tranſmitted.

For this purpoſe, as well as in conſideration of your eminent ſervices, we have appointed you, *Governor and Preſident of Fort William in Bengal*, and its dependencies, in the manner mentioned in the General Letter by this conveyance; to which we have annexed an additional allowance of One Thouſand Pounds a year, as a teſtimony of our great regard for you. We are,

Your loving Friends,

LONDON, March 8,
1758.

John Dorrien,	John Payne,
G. Steevens,	Lau. Sulivan,
Charles Chambers,	J. Raymond,
John Browne,	Chriſ. Burrow,
M. Weſtern,	M. Impey,
Hen. Hadley,	John Manſhip,
Timothy Tullie,	Thoˢ. Phipps,
Chaˢ. Gough,	John Raymond,
Thoˢ. Saunders,	Rob. Jones.

To the Hon. Robert Clive, *Eſq;*

NUMB.

NUMBER II.

Company's General Letter to Bengal, *dated* March 8, 1763.

Paragraph the 23d. IN our Letter of the 3d inftant, we lamented the fituation of the many unhappy people who had loft their property on the capture of Fort William, and had no relief from the treaty concluded with the late Nabob; in compaffion to their fufferings we recommended your applying to him on their behalf for relief, if you had the leaft probability of fucceeding. It is with great pleafure we find, that the late happy revolution and your care, have produced what we had very little reafon to expect from the late Nabob. A grant from the prefent Nabob of fuch large fums to make good the loffes of the feveral inhabitants, as we are fatisfied are much more than fufficient to indemnify them, even with intereft thereon. Altho' the Nabob gives the company a crore of rupees, yet when the immenfe expence of maintaining the fettlement at Fulta, the military charges of our troops from Fort St. George and Bombay, and the

the hazard thofe Prefidencies have been expofed to by drawing them off from thence, the charges of fortifications and rebuildings, replacing ftores, increafe of our garrifon, the lofs of a feafon's inveftments, if not more, and many other obvious particulars are taken into the account, it will appear that the Company will ftill be confiderable fufferers: It is highly reafonable therefore, if the feveral inhabitants are paid out of the money ftipulated in the treaty with the Nabob for that purpofe, the full amount of their refpective loffes, together with intereft thereon, that all the furplus fhould be applied to the Company's Ufe. We fhall expect to hear you have acted in this manner, and that fuch furplus has been accordingly depofited in our cafh; and we direct that you obferve this as a rule for your conduct, in the diftribution of any further fums of money on this account. We do not intend by this to break in upon any fums of money which have been given by the Nabob to particular perfons by way of free gift or gratuity for their fervices, it is the furplus of the fums we mean which are agreed to be paid by the Nabob in the

the 5th, 6th, and 7th articles of the treaty with him. It is thought proper here to acquaint you, that ſuch ſurpluſſes, whatever they are, we propoſe to expend in ſuch manner, as will tend to the general utility and ſecurity of the ſettlement, they are therefore to be reſerved for our farther orders: And you are hereby directed to tranſmit us, for our information, exact accounts of every perſons loſs, whether Engliſh or other inhabitants, on the late capture of Fort William, and what has been paid to each of them in particular, by way of indemnification for the ſame, out of the moneys granted by the Nabob for that purpoſe.

Tranſlation of a Treaty between the Nabob Meer Mahmud Coſſin Cawn *and the Company.*

(Company's Seal.) (Meer Mahmud Coſſin Cawn Bahader.)

TWO treaties have been written of the ſame tenor, and reciprocally exchanged, containing the articles undermentioned, between Meer Mahmud Coſſin Cawn Bahader, and the Nabob Sheemſo dowla Bahader, Governor, and the reſt of the Council for the Affairs of the Engliſh Company, and during the life of Meer Mahamud Coſſin Cawn Bahader, and the duration of the factories of the Engliſh Company in this Country, this agreement ſhall remain in force. GOD is witneſs between us that the following articles ſhall in no wiſe be infringed by either party.

Article I. The Nabob, Meer Mahmud Jaffier Cawn Bahader, ſhall continue in poſſeſſion of his dignities, and all affairs be tranſacted in his name, and a ſuitable income be allowed for his expences.

Art. II. The Neâbut of the Subadarne of Bengall, Azemabad, and Ceriſſa, *&c.* ſhall be conferred by his Excellency (the Nabob) on

on Meer Mahmud Coffin Cawn Bahader; he ſhall be veſted with the adminiſtration of all affairs of the provinces, and, after his Excellency, he ſhall proceed to the Government.

Art. III. Betwixt us, and Meer Mahamud Coffin Cawn Bahader, a firm friendſhip and union is eſtabliſhed; his enemies are our enemies, and his friends are our friends.

Art. IV. The Europeans and Talingas of the Engliſh army, ſhall be ready to aſſiſt the Nabob Meer Mahamud Coffin Cawn Bahader, in the management of all affairs; and, in all affairs dependant on him, they ſhall exert themſelves to the utmoſt of their abilities.

Art. V. In all charges of the Company, and of the ſaid army and provinces for the filled, *&c.* the lands of Burdwan and Minapoor, and Chittagaum ſhall be aſſigned, and ſunnuds for that purpoſe ſhall be written and granted: the Company is to ſtand to all loſſes, and receive all the profits of theſe three countries; and we will demand no more than the three aſſignments aforeſaid.

Art. VI. One half of the chunams produced at Silet for three years, ſhall be purchaſed

chafed by the Gomaftah of the Company from the people of the Government, at the cuftomary rate of that place. The tenants and inhabitants of thofe diftricts fhall receive no injury.

Art. VII. The ballance of the former tuneaw fhall be paid according to the kiftbundee agreed upon with the Royroyans; the jewels which have been pledged fhall be received back again.

Art. VIII. We will not allow the tenants of the Sircan to fettle in the lands of the Englifh Company; neither fhall the tenants of the Company be allowed to fettle in the lands of the Sircan.

Art. IX. We will give no protection to the dependants of the Sircan in the lands, or in the factories of the Company; neither fhall any protection be given to the dependants of the Company in the Lands of the Sircan; and whofoever fhall fly to either party for refuge fhall be given up.

Art. X. The meafures for the war or peace with the Shah Zada, and raifing fupplies of money, and concluding both thefe points, fhall be

be weighed in the ſcale of reaſon, and whatever is judged expedient ſhall be put in execution; and it ſhall be ſo contrived, by the joint Counſellors, that he be removed from this country, nor ſuffered to get any footing in it: whether there be peace with the Shah Zada or not, our agreements with Meer Mahamud Cawn Bahader, we will (by the Grace of God) inviolably obſerve, as long as the Engliſh-Company factories continue in this country. Dated the 17th of the month Jeffer, in the year 1174 of the Ucjra.

(Sign manual of Meer Mahamud Coſſin Cawn.) This was ſealed on the 18th of the month of Jeffer, in the eleven hundredth and 74th year of the Ucjra, and the propoſals are agreed to.

F I N I S.